

File #

## FISHES AND FISHING

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## Drop a Line

By LINDY BLAISDELL



Most of the people I talked to this weekend were preparing for the big storm. A short visit to the Snug Harbor Marina on Saturday afternoon found boats coming out of the water by the dozen. The same held true at the Yacht Club as well as other marinas up and down the coast. Labor Day weekend is usually one of the busiest 3 days of water recreation, but not this year. Boat owners were more intent on saving their boats for next year than a close call fishing trip. There are still nice weekends coming up to look forward to.

Storms mean weather and barometer changes. Fish sense these changes and will feed heavily before a storm. Sometimes it's hours and sometimes it's a day or so before the storm hits. My son Brett and I took this advice to a couple of small walks around ponds in Plymouth on Saturday afternoon. We fished until dark, catching only a few small largemouth. Evidently the bass in those ponds don't read the *Clipper* and my column. The fish we caught were taken on surface lures, a Ratteling Chug Bug and a Zora Puppy.

Daylight savings time is slowly winding down, a couple of minutes a day will put sunset about 6:30 by the end of the month. Best fishing time for largemouth is either early sunrise or late sunset until dark, using surface plugs. Work these plugs slow, sometimes wait for the water rings to flatten out before twitching or jerking the plug into action. Be sure to cast into the same location several times. Often you will get a bass's attention on the first cast, its determination on the 2nd, and success on both ends the 3rd try.

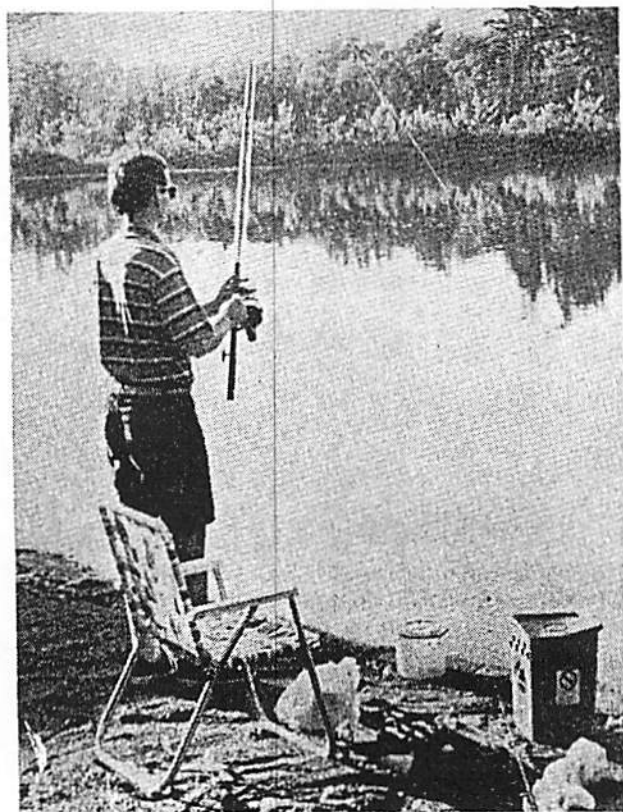
Recently a friend related an almost horror story involving his son, a friend, and a shark. The story as told has a shark swimming into and thrashing around upon the beach area within the Duxbury Bay area near the bridge. During this episode the shark brushed up against one of the swimmer's legs. The father immediately ran into the water and got both kids out, the shark flip-flopped back into the water and swam off leaving a sandpaper scrape along one of the kid's leg. The incident was reported to the harbor master and the swimmers were told it was probably just a sand shark and not to worry.

Sand sharks are one of our most common sharks. They are identified by their 2 look-alike dorsal fins. Its color is pale gray to brown on top and grayish white on the underside. Yellowish spots cover the mid and posterior parts of body and fins. Sand sharks will grow to a length of 10 feet and weigh up to 250 pounds, however, the average is closer to 4, 5, and 6 feet. The range is from New England south to Brazil and east to

England and Europe. Sand sharks are sluggish bottom dweller feeding on other fish including mackerel, skate, flounder, and crabs.

Sand sharks are not commercially important in the United States but are eaten as fish and chips overseas especially in England.

Sand sharks are not noted as dangerous fish but I would get out of the water any time a shark was near, it might be Jaws Jr.



This Island Creek angler is ready for some late afternoon-sunset fishing—only thing missing is a flashlight.